

UNITED STATES MINT, CARSON CITY, NEV.

L E T T E R

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Director of the Mint in relation to an appropriation for the United States mint at Carson City, Nev.

JUNE 9, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, June 8, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Director of the Mint, of the 5th instant, in relation to an appropriation for the United States mint at Carson City, Nev., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887.

Respectfully yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF THE MINT,
Washington, D. C., June 5, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the fact that the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill as reported to the House of Representatives is without any appropriation for the United States mint at Carson, from the fact that at the same date a letter was addressed you reporting the fact of the practical "cessation of all kinds of business at the mint at Carson since the suspension of the coinage of the silver dollar June 1, 1885." I saw no grounds "for an estimate of expenditures at this mint for the coming year." But it was stated that "should the mint be closed as recommended, the only provision which need be submitted to Congress accordingly would be for a custodian, and for what assistance might be deemed necessary."

In the omission of any specific estimate for the mint at Carson, therefore, no appropriation has been reported to the House. I desire to call

your attention to the requirement of an appropriation of at least \$7,500, for the proper care and custody of the building, and of the delicate and valuable machinery and apparatus therein contained.

I have also to submit the proposition whether it would not be well to suggest for the consideration of Congress an appropriation the same as that for the present fiscal year, especially in view of the fact that representations have been made to the Bureau of the Mint of the readiness on the part of the producers of bullion to deposit the same at the mint at Carson, instead of sending it to private refineries, on condition that certain benefits which it is claimed are conferred by the law, and which during the present year have been withheld from this institution, in common with some others, by the action of the Department, are restored.

I may say, indeed, that it is doubtless true that the cessation of deposits at the Carson mint was very largely due, first, to the payment of depositors by draft instead of in cash and, second, to the imposition of a "transportation charge" upon depositors for cost of transportation of refined bullion to some coinage mint or to the assay office at New York, especially as the charge made by the express companies to the Government, and so imposed upon depositors, has been in excess of rates paid by private shippers.

I desire also to call attention to the fact that omission of the usual appropriation for the United States mint at Carson will deprive that institution of the means to reopen, if in the course of the year at the discretion of the Department it should be deemed expedient.

I have already explained the details of this matter to the chairman of the subcommittee as well as the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Very respectfully,

JAMES P. KIMBALL,
Director of the Mint.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

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